

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO: Kris Phillips

FROM: Bob Babcock

DATE: 3/24/08

SUBJECT: May 08 Water Works News article – DEQ Water Sector Security Program



1. MI WARN: Michigan Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) - Update

WARN is utilities helping utilities by facilitating emergency management. So far, 23 states have WARNs. It is hoped that the MI WARN will be operating in 2008.

In general, WARNs are an Internet web based computer system that operate by allowing member utilities to self-populate a database with credentialed personnel and specified equipment that, on a case by case basis, might be available to other member utilities during a utility outage.

33 Michigan utilities have expressed interest in being members of MI WARN. A steering committee is being chaired by Terry Biederman of Waterford Township and currently a host for the web server is being investigated along with startup and

operational costs. The Steering Committee approved the Mutual Aid Agreement at a meeting on March 3, 2008. Communities need to review the MAA and approve it if acceptable. The MAA can be found under the MDEQ water security web site under WARN index. Mutual aid agreements (MAA) are a part of the WARN, but MI WARN members do not have to sign the MAA in order to be a member of the MI WARN.

2. Gas Chlorine Reduction Project

The gas chlorine reduction project is completed and congratulations to all who participated. It seems the rest of the country is struggling with the use of gas chlorine at public water and wastewater systems. Part of the driving force for the gas chlorine reduction program is risks versus the costs. Risk-benefit analyses show that the cost-benefit analysis is limited and in today's environment is not sufficiently protective. One might think "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" and that chlorine has saved many lives. The concept of this project was to 'keep it that way'...saving lives. Gas chlorine is one of the most dangerous materials that city utilities use and is being re-evaluated as a result.

Many thanks to CDM Michigan and Prein & Newhof for their outstanding performance in a very limited timeframe on this project.

3. Water Distribution System Contamination

The "800 # gorilla" of the drinking water program is the contamination of the distribution system, and, we're working on reconciling this issue with the Contamination Warning System and other programs.

4. VA CIP and TTT-TTX

Acronyms for two continuing contract efforts in the water security program: vulnerability assessment capital improvement plan (VACIP) follow-up (CDM Michigan), and tabletop exercises (TTX) (Patriot Services). Please consider participating in these efforts if contacted. The State as well as your community and the national effort are benefited by your participation.

Thanks for doing what you do so well...serve and protect – kind of like the police - congratulations.